

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 006691

SIPDIS

S/CT FOR REAP, NEA/ARN FOR ZIADEH

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [CASC](#)

SUBJECT: JORDAN: 2002 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: SECSTATE 201772

[1](#)1. Answers keyed to ref tel.

A) (U) Significant actions taken by host governments to support the global coalition against terrorism.

The GOJ continues to be a strong supporter of the global coalition against terrorism and has responded positively to our requests for assistance. To support Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) efforts in Afghanistan, the GOJ continues to maintain a de-mining platoon and a Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) field hospital there.

B) (U) Describe the response of the judicial system of each country to acts of international and/or domestic terrorism.

The Jordanian penal code provides the judicial branch with many legal tools to pursue and convict terrorists. In 2002, the GOJ was involved in prosecuting several terrorism-related cases.

-- The GOJ is currently prosecuting 10 Jordanians involved in a plot to target U.S. interests in Jordan, possibly including people jogging in the neighborhood surrounding the Embassy. Members of the group have allegedly confessed to buying machineguns to launch military attacks inside Israel.

-- Ra'ed Hijazi: The Court of Cassation requested information from the State Security Court in October 2002 to support the death penalty sentence handed down by the State Security Court earlier this year. Despite press reports to the contrary, Hijazi is not being retried and remains in custody.

-- "Reform and Challenge" organization: The State Security Court on Wednesday, October 2, 2002 acquitted six men standing trial on charges of carrying out subversive and arson acts in 1998.

-- Assassination of Jordanian diplomat Na'eb al-Ma'ayteh: In July 2002, the Court of Cassation upheld the death by hanging sentence handed down by the State Security Court in December 2001 against Yasser Abu Shinnar for his role in the 1994 assassination of Jordanian diplomat Na'eb Ma'ayteh.

-- Car bomb plotters: On May 20, 2002, the State Security Court prosecutors indicted six unnamed suspects in connection with a bomb that targeted the vehicle of a GID counterterrorism officer. The blast killed two passersby. There has been no date set for the trial.

The GOJ continues to apprehend and prosecute individuals involved in smuggling weapons and/or explosives to the West Bank. For example, four Syrians in July 2002 were convicted of illegally possessing explosives and received sentences ranging from one and a half years to three years.

C) (U) Did the host government extradite or request the extradition of suspected terrorists for prosecution during the year?

Yes, Jamal Fatayer was extradited from Libya in January 2002 in connection with the 1994 assassination of Jordanian diplomat Nayeb Ma'aytah in Beirut.

D) (U) Describe any significant impediments to host government prosecution and/or extradition of suspected terrorists.

There are no legal or administrative impediments to the prosecution of terrorist cases in Jordan. However, there are some constitutional impediments to extraditing Jordanian citizens who may be suspected terrorists. Most extraditions have been put on hold following a 1997 Jordanian court ruling that Jordan's bilateral extradition treaty with the U.S. is invalid until ratified by parliament.

E) (U) Discuss host government responses other than prosecution.

GOJ officials have consistently issued statements denouncing both international and domestic terrorist acts.

The GOJ is working closely with US officials to investigate the October 28 murder of USAID officer Laurence Foley.

F) (U) Describe major counterterrorism efforts undertaken in 2002 by the host government, including steps taken in international fora.

GOJ officials are close to signing two additional UN terrorism conventions, which would make Jordan a signatory on 10 of the 12 conventions.

H) (U) Has the host government made any public statements in support of a terrorist-supporting country on a terrorism issue?

No

I) (U) Describe any significant change since 2001 in the host government's attitude toward terrorism.

There has been no change in the GOJ's strong commitment to the coalition against terrorism or to its own domestic counterterrorism program.

J) (U) Describe U.S. counterterrorism efforts and initiatives with the host government, including, but not limited to, requests to the host government for specific cooperation and efforts by the U.S. in the host country to eliminate international financial support to terrorist grounds directly or in support of their activities.

The USG has a robust Anti-terrorism Assistance (ATA) program with Jordan, which has increased the professionalism of the Public Security Directorate (PSD). ATA training has also been extended to other sectors of the Jordanian government. This spring, ATA provided training in counterterrorism legislation to several participants from the legislative and financial government sectors.

At this time, there is no evidence that Jordan is a center of illicit funding for terrorist groups. Under UNSCR 1267, Jordanian authorities have searched bank, stock exchange, and land registry records but have found no evidence of financial or real assets in Jordan connected with any of the groups or individuals listed by the United Nations or EO 13224.

K) (U) Cooperation with host government during the previous five years:

-- (I) The extent to which the host government in 2002 cooperated or is cooperating with the USG in apprehending, convicting, and punishing the individual(s) responsible for the act.

The GOJ has aggressively pursued suspected terrorists, and has successfully prosecuted and convicted many involved in plots against US or Israeli interests.

The GOJ is in the preliminary stages of its investigation into the death of Laurence Foley and has conducted the investigation in cooperation with USG officials.

-- (II) The extent to which the host government in 2002 cooperated or is cooperating in preventing further acts of terrorism against US citizens.

The GOJ has been very responsive to the security needs of US citizens in Jordan. During times of tension, the GOJ has increased security around the embassy perimeter and in areas where Americans tend to gather, including tourist sites and hotels. After the tragic murder of USAID administrator Laurence Foley, the security services immediately increased security around the homes of most US diplomats and increased the presence of marked and unmarked patrol cars in the neighborhoods of US diplomats.

L) (U) If the US has sought cooperation during the past five years, describe the extent to which the host government in 2002 cooperated or is cooperating in preventing acts of terrorism against US citizens.

Please see above.

GNEHM